

LESSON

1.1

Introduction to Canadian Film



Learning Objective:

Understand film terminology and identify our national film industry

Curriculum Strand:

Theory (Media Arts); Oral Communication (English)

Materials Needed:

- Class set of REEL CANADA Catalogues (available on-line at www.reelcanada.ca)
- 2 copies of Handout 1.1.1 - Go Fish
- Class set of Handout 1.1.2 - Brainstorm
- Class set of Handout 1.1.3 - Journaling



This is a good time to show a clip from a Canadian Film to generate excitement for the unit and activate prior knowledge. Clips can be found on the website, or email our Education Coordinator Tallulah Hershorn (tallulah@reelcanada.com) to request a DVD copy.

Activity: Film Selection

Recommended clips for this lesson (find them at www.reelcanada.com):

Fido
How She Move
One Week
Passchendaele
Pontypool
The Rocket
Sharkwater
Water

Distribute your class set of REEL CANADA Catalogues, or have the class **access the catalogue online** at www.reelcanada.com. Give the students enough time to choose the top three films they would like to see.

Conduct a vote (either by individual or group) to choose the films that you will show as part of the Canadian film unit. This is a great introduction to all of the Canadian Films available.

Class Discussion point: Have you seen or heard about any of these films? If no, why do you think you haven't? Did you know they were Canadian?



Game/Activity: GO FISH!

Set-up:

- Photocopy **2 copies** of **HANDOUT 1.1.1** “Go Fish” Cards. Cut into 52 cards.
- Divide your class into four teams. Students may name the teams after Canadian Films (you may want to have some titles in your back pocket for them to choose from, or have the REEL CANADA programs available).
- Deal seven “Go Fish” cards to each team. Place the remaining cards in a pile in the middle of the room. Choose a team to go first – perhaps the team that can name a Canadian actor the fastest.

The Objective:

To match each film definition card with its pair. The team with the most matches (when all the cards are gone, or at a fixed time) wins the game.

Play:

- The team playing first asks any other team if they have the matching definition card to one of the definitions they already have.
- If the team that is asked does not have the card, they reply “Go Fish” and the first team takes a card from the pile in the middle, and ends their turn. Play continues clockwise.
- If the team that is asked has the card, a match is made, the requesting team must read out the definition of the term to the class. The first team may then ask any other team for another new match until they are told to “go fish”. 2



SENIOR GRADE Game Option:

Hand out the 26 definition cards to the class, and then ask each student to stand and read their card’s definition. Students who can guess the term raise their hand. Pick the first hand raised **AFTER THE READER STOPS READING**. If they guess correctly, they win a point. The student with the most points at the end of the card set wins.

Content/Lesson: Film Industry – Group Brainstorms.

1. Write this event on the blackboard:



2. Divide the class into small groups. Ask groups to brainstorm as many jobs as they can possibly think of that led to the event on the board. The objective is not to come up with a comprehensive list, but to generate a discussion about how broad the film industry is, and how complex it is. See **Prep Guide 1** for background information about often overlooked aspects of film-making
3. .



If students need prompts – ask them to think of behind the scenes jobs and to consider the journey of a film:

- the idea (writer, screenwriter, producer)
- preparing for the shoot (director, designer, artistic director, locations)
- making the film (actors, wardrobe, makeup, lights, camera, food)
- post production (editor, sound mixer, special effects, advertising)
- distributing the film (marketing, advertising, sales, retail)

You may want students to search online for different roles in the film industry.

3. When the groups have come up with lists, ask each group (in turn) to share one job and write the jobs on the board stemming from the event. Have students copy the brainstorm into **HANDOUT 1.1.2** or into their journal. When all of the jobs are on the board, have a summary discussion with the class about the impact of the film industry on our economy.

**SENIOR GRADE Lesson Extensions:**

- Research and discuss the impact of the film industry on the broader economy (for example, the Canadian film and television industry contributes almost \$4 billion to Canada's economy every year, and employs over 130,000 people).
- Discuss the concept of ranking the importance of jobs in the film industry: is it possible to say which roles are more important?

Journal:

1. Introduce the journal component of the unit, using **HANDOUT 1.1.3**. The second page of this handout contains all of the journal topics for the entire unit. The third page of the handout is the journal rubric.
2. Assign the Journal - **Handout 1.1.4**

Homework: Students finish and decorate their journals and answer the question on the bottom of the brainstorm sheet: Why do you think it is important for Canada to have its own film industry?

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

SCREENWRITER

Definition:

The **screenplay** or **script** is written by the **screenwriter**. This is the **plan** of what will happen in a film. This usually includes all the shots the camera will make, the dialogue or words actors will say, and what the backgrounds will look like.

Did you know?

Sometimes screenplays even have information about such details as lighting, moods or music.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

DIRECTOR

Definition:

The **Director** creates an artistic **vision** for a film and **guides** the crew and actors to make it happen. The director will often make the **final choices** on what should happen in front of the camera.

Did you know? The only people that can usually overrule a director are the producers of a movie? The producers represent the production company that is making the movie.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

PRODUCER

Definition:

The person (or people) in charge of setting all the **guidelines** of the film. The producer will often start a 'project' and be **in charge** of choosing all the main people to work on the film, how to pay for the film and how the film will be sold and distributed.

Did you know?

The producer will often choose what movie should be made and then choose a director after?

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

DOCUMENTARY

Definition:

A film that tries to tell a **true story** or educate audiences about a situation that is actually happening or has already happened. People create these films to 'document' something real for others to see and **understand**.

Did you know? A Docudrama is when drama and documentary are combined. For example, actors will sometimes reenact something that already happened.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

INDEPENDENT FILM

Definition:

A film usually made by a small group of **individuals** without the help of a big production company. These are often 'art' films that are not intended to be marketed to mainstream audiences. These films usually have **small budgets**.

Did you know?

Sometimes big film companies will buy or subsidize (pay for part of) an independent film and then release it if they like it?

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

GENRE

Definition:

A **genre** is the primary method of film categorization. A "genre" generally refers to films that share similarities in the narrative elements from which they are constructed.

Did you know? Common genres include drama, comedy, documentary, horror, musical and action.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

GEMINI AWARDS

Definition:

An annual awards ceremony to honour the best in Canadian television. Awards are given out for a range of categories like best news coverage, acting, and best kids, drama, comedy and lifestyle shows

Did you know?

Quebec holds its own version of the Geminis, Les Prix Gémeaux.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

MOVIE SHORTS

Definition:

A film that is shorter than a feature length film, usually under 40 minutes. Most shorts adhere to a standard of 20 minutes in length.

Did you know? Movie shorts were very popular when the film industry was beginning. Shorts have become less and less popular over time as people got used to longer films.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

FILM RATINGS

Definition:

Ratings give audiences and parents **advice** on choosing movies that are **appropriate**. Ratings will usually reflect the film's level of controversial **content**, such as swearing, nudity, violence and sexual relationships.

Did you know? Canadian ratings: G (General - all ages), PG (Parental guidance advised), 14A (Under 14 requires parent), 18A (under 18 requires parent) and R (18 or older)

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

NATIONAL FILM BOARD

Definition:

A **Canadian** public filmmaking **organisation** that produces, promotes and distributes numerous films that inform Canadians and international audiences about Canada.

Did you know? The NFB has the largest collection of Canadian films and that you can access some of their films and information online at www.nfb.ca

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

LITERARY ADAPTATION

Definition:

When the script of a film is **based on something else** that has already been **written**, like a book, play or poem.

Did you know?

Filmmakers have to get the permission of an author before they can adapt their writing into a film?

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

ANIMATION

Definition:

The rapid display of **still images** to create a sense of **movement**. These images are often made with drawings, computer graphics, or other interesting mediums, such as modeling clay.

Did you know? One second of animation is made up of 24 or more still images played so quickly that they fool the human brain into thinking it is looking at something moving.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

DAILIES

Definition:

Raw and unedited footage that is watched at the end of a shooting day by the director, producer and other members of the cast and crew. This allows them to make sure the footage looks perfect. If changes have to be made, this lets them know.

Did you know?

Films are usually filmed out of sequence. Filming is usually based on the availability of locations and actors.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

SCORE

Definition:

The **music** written to accompany a film. This music can range from pop music to orchestration unique to the film. Sometimes the music is in the background and sometimes it almost takes on its own character.

Did you know? It is often easier to have music written specifically for a film instead of using an existing song, because it can be very difficult to have the timing match up.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

FILM FESTIVAL

Definition:

The **showcase** of **many different films** in a certain location or group of locations (like a city). All of films are usually new and or even the premiere screenings for audiences. Festivals are used to generate publicity and see if people like the films.

Did you know? The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) is the second largest film festival in the world. The largest is in Cannes, France.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Definition:

This person is in charge of the **camera and lighting crews** of a film. The director tells the cinematographer **how they want the film to look** and then the cinematographer is in charge of making those shots happen.

Did you know? There will often be different cinematographers in charge of different types of footage, such as wide angle landscape, close up and fast sequences shots.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

CAMERA OPERATOR

Definition:

The person who uses a camera to **shoot film** (or video) based on the directions of the cinematographer and/or director. Everybody watches this person's work. It is a high pressure job.

Did you know?

There are often multiple cameras shooting different angles of the same action.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

GRIP

Definition:

A person who is in charge of taking care of and setting up the **technical equipment** used in filming. They set up lights, move set pieces, and lay down tracks for the camera to move along. The Key Grip in charge of all the other grips.

Did you know? The Dolly Grip moves the dolly that the camera sits on while filming moving shots.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

GAFFER

Definition:

The head of all the **lighting** and **electrical** components of shooting a film.

Did you know?

Often the longest part of setting up a shot for filming is arranging the complicated lighting.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

STUNT COORDINATOR

Definition:

Someone hired for the expertise in **choreographing** and casting **complicated** performances of **stunts** (high risk activities) for the camera. Often experienced stunt performers themselves, they have to figure out safe ways to do dangerous things.

Did you know? A stunt double is a person who stands in for an actor to do dangerous stunts. There have even been films made with stunt double dogs for the star dogs.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR

Definition:

In charge of the “**continuity**” of a film. Keeping track of what has been filmed and how (lenses, blocking, props and costuming, etc). Also keeps track of what has already been filmed and what has to still be filmed.

Did you know?

Editors usually use the script supervisor’s notes, to plan their editing.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

SOUND EDITOR

Definition:

A person who chooses and weaves together different **sound recordings** to make the film sound right. Often there are **different layers** of voice tracks, background noise, special effects and music that all have to be balanced perfectly.

Did you know? Foley artists are people who add in sound effects after filming. They often add in sounds like footsteps, wind-chimes or weather to make films seem more realistic.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

Definition:

In charge of the **day-to-day management** of the cast and crew, including scheduling, equipment, script and set.

Did you know?

Sometimes the First Assistant Director will be in charge of directing background action or even minor shots.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

TELEFILM CANADA

Definition:

A company owned by the **Government of Canada** that provides funding and promotion for Canadian films. The organisation reports to parliament and gives out money to support the Canadian film industry.

Did you know? Vancouver is the third largest film production city in North America, behind Los Angeles and New York.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Definition:

The person who designs the overall look of the film, including the sets and props. They are responsible for visually representing the story, characters and themes.

Did you know?

Production designers often include artistic details that can serve as visual metaphors for characters and storylines.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

GENIE AWARDS

Definition:

Genie Awards are given out to recognize the best of Canadian cinema by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television. A committee meets to pick the nominees and then members of the academy vote to determine a winner.

Did you know?

The original Genie statuette featured a navel, which over the years has mysteriously disappeared.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

STORYBOARD

Definition:

A film storyboard is essentially a large comic of a film (or a section of a film) produced beforehand to help film directors, cinematographers and producers **visualize** and **plan** the **scenes before filming**.

Did you know?

The storyboarding process we use today was developed by the Walt Disney Studio in the early 1930s.

GO FISH! Reel it in.



Term:

FEATURE FILM

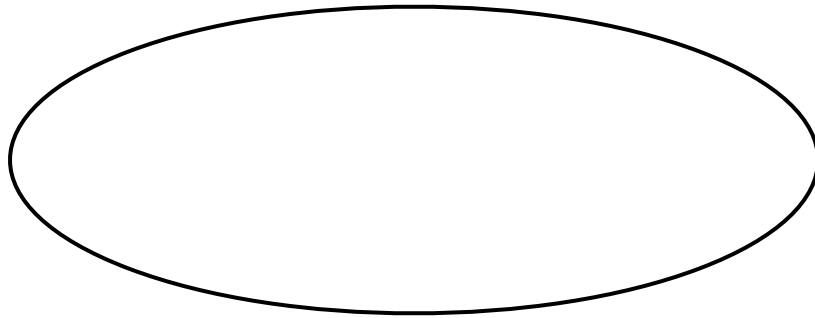
Definition:

A **film made for** initial release to **theatres**. Usually longer than 80 minutes. The term “feature” originated during film’s early days, when viewers would watch a number of shorts before the main featured presentation.

Did you know?

The shorts played before a feature film were often a mix of newsreels, cartoons, serials and documentaries.

BRAINSTORM SHEET



Why do you think it is important for Canada to have its own film industry?

JOURNALING

For the REEL CANADA Canadian Film unit, you will keep a journal that your teacher may collect at the end.

Your journal is **your chance** to be creative and think about a topic or issue and express how you feel about it.

What is your opinion? What do you really think about something? How do you want to express that?

Your journal can take on any form you feel most comfortable with. Some people write their opinions, others draw, doodle, write poems, brainstorm, collage, make lists or create something totally new. This is your chance to **be yourself**. Every answer is right. Go for it. Start with the questions and see where they take you.

.....

Your journal can be a duotang, small binder or notebook .

Decorate the cover of your journal with pictures, drawings, words and photos that show what film means to you. At least 50% of the decorations should be Canadian content.

.....

If you are stuck on what to write, consider the **Three Rs of Journalling**:

- **Retell** – write in your own words what this topic is about or what you have experienced
- **Respond** – how this topic makes you feel and makes others feel
- **Relate** – how has this topic been part of your life

JOURNAL RUBRIC

	L1 (50 - 59)	L2 (60 - 69)	L3 (70 - 79)	L4 (80 -100)
Completion	2-3 entries complete	3-6 entries complete	7-10 entries complete	10- 13 entries complete
Effort	Very little	Some	Good	Outstanding
Depth of responses	Straight forward answers	Some thought and exploration	Thoughtful responses	Thoughtful and insightful responses
Decoration with 50% Can. Content	Quick job of decorating, no Can-con	Moderate decoration, some Can-con	Attractive decoration with 50% Can-con	Amazing looking journal with Can-con
Creativity	Entries are all the same	Some variety in entries	Entries are creative and interesting	Very Creative and varied entries

TEACHER FEEDBACK:

● ● ●



This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook paper. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.